

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A sterilization bag characterized in that side edges and lower ends of a gas-permeable material and a synthetic resin film are adhered with an opening remaining in an upper end thereof and

which has a damage prevention means that prevents damage of at least one selected from the gas-permeable material, the synthetic resin film and an adhered portion of the gas-permeable material and the synthetic resin film by catching or receiving the tips of stored articles in the lower end portion of the sterilization bag or vicinity thereof.

2. (Original) The sterilization bag of claim 1, wherein the damage prevention means is a bulging portion obtained by mountain folding and valley folding the synthetic resin film and prevents the damage by receiving the tips of stored articles.

3. (Original) The sterilization bag of claim 1, wherein the damage prevention means is a bulging portion formed by mountain folding the synthetic resin film in a lower portion of the sterilization bag, and the folding line of a side surface film mountain folded is positioned at the lowermost end of the sterilization bag.

4. (Currently Amended) The sterilization bag of claims 2 or 3, wherein the side edges of the bulging portion is adhered obliquely so that the lower end becomes shorter than the opening in the upper end.

5. (Currently Amended) The sterilization bag of claims 2 or 3, wherein the intersecting angle of an adhered portion in the side edge of the bulging portion and the folding line of the side surface film made of synthetic resin mountain folded is in the range of 120° to 150°.

6. (Currently Amended) The sterilization bag of claims 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein the out side of the side edge of the bulging portion is cut and removed.

7. (Original) The sterilization bag of claim 1, wherein the damage prevention means is a protective component disposed in the inner surface of the lower end portion of the sterilization bag or the vicinity thereof, and prevents the damage by catching the tip of stored articles.

8. (Original) The sterilization bag of claim 7, wherein the protective component is a filmy protective component.

9. (Original) The sterilization bag of claim 8, wherein the protective component is formed by extending and folding the synthetic resin film.

10. (Currently Amended) The sterilization bag of claims 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein the protective component is a bag component formed by mountain folding a third synthetic resin film

11. (Currently Amended) The sterilization bag of ~~any one of~~ claims 7, 8 ~~and 10~~, wherein the protective component is made of a material having gas permeability.

12. (Currently Amended) The sterilization bag of claim of ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 11~~, wherein the sterilization bag is used for sterilizing one or two or more kinds of medical instruments selected from the group consisting of scalpels, tweezers, forceps and scissors.